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VOL. 86, No. 16

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MARCH 9, 2023

## Bilingual Story Time Earns Rave Reviews from Attendees

by Gloria Walters-Flowers



PHOTO BY GLORIA WALTERS-FLOWERS

Young Greenbelters eagerly gather for Bilingual Story Time at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Friday, February 10.

On the second Friday morning of each month, the ordinarily quiet gym of Springhill Lake Recreation Center jumps to life. The littlest Greenbelt babies take over. With harried moms running behind their young lovebugs, they quickly try to corral the kids to join in the reading circle.

The bilingual half-hour program is jam-packed with stories, songs, dancing and short lessons on numbers and colors. Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) sponsors the program. Greenbelt library staff leads the event.

RUAK program organizer Robert Goldberg-Strassler's smile grew wider as families entered the gym. With good reason, too; February's event was the biggest turnout since the literacy program started in October last year. Goldberg-Strassler had worked hard to get the word out over the previous few months. It paid off.

### Enthusiastic Response

Dariana Luveron learned about

the program through a flyer. She brought 4-year-old Jeremiah. What grabbed her attention was the learning sections of the program. "They really catch the attention of the kids; it's really nice."

First-timer Kenice Brooks brought her son, 8-month-old Levi Palmer and said, "The program was good. It provided good exposure to other kids since he does not go to daycare. Good for him to be around other kids. It is a great program. I had a great time. I give it a 10 out of 10. I speak both languages, [but] sometimes it's really difficult for people who only speak Spanish. To have programs like this is good." When asked if she will return, "Of course. I didn't know that they [Greenbelt] have so many activities."

Zoheret Coats attended with 2-year-old Jasmine Fox. "I've been looking for a program like

See **STORY TIME**, page 8

## Council Reschedules Charter Meeting, Supports Police Tech

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council meeting on February 27 was short but informative. In attendance were Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Judith Davis, Colin Byrd, Silke Pope and Rodney Roberts. A discussion with School Board Member Jonathan Briggs is in a separate story on page 7.

### Charter Amendment

Due to an omission by the city from its advertisement in the News Review, notice of the originally scheduled public meeting

to discuss the charter amendment on city manager residency was too late and had to be postponed. The new date for the meeting is Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building. At Jordan's suggestion, a second meeting will be scheduled during the day on Saturday, March 25 (time TBD). Roberts objected that Thursdays or Saturdays were atypical meeting days and nobody would come, but the remaining

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

## A Divided Board of Ed Votes Not to Pay Miller's Legal Fees

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Though the February Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education meeting was a whopping four hours in length, the most divisive item on the agenda was the payment of former chair and current board member Dr. Juanita Miller's legal fees. The legal fees have been incurred as she fights

her removal from the board. A group of fellow board members brought charges against Miller, but Miller claims she's been targeted as a whistleblower because she reported those same members for various violations. Miller's outstanding legal fees total \$148,444.62.

The recurrent message

Miller sought to convey to her colleagues at the February meeting was, "This could happen to you." During her remarks she shared a timeline of her embattled tenure as chair, which she referred to as full of "distractions, political power

See **BOARD**, page 7

### Spotlight on Women

## An All-Woman Community Nursing Team Brings Care

by Kim Walsh



PHOTO BY JOYCE-MARREL KOLENKY, COMMUNITY CASE WORKER

Nursing students, from left: Avery Allen, Diana Devine, Maura Blair, Olivia Musick, Katherine Hopkins and Hannah Buzgo

For several years Greenbelt's Community Nursing Program has brought area student nurses to eligible Greenbelt residents for in-home medical services. This spring a group of six exceptional young women from The Catholic University of America Conway School of Nursing has been coming to Greenbelt each week to deliver community nursing care to senior residents at

Green Ridge House. Though the nursing program has partnered with Bowie State University and Washington Adventist University, this is the first time the Conway School of Nursing has participated in the program, creating a new partnership with Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) to provide greater health services for seniors and their caregivers in Green Ridge House.

### Green Ridge House

The city-owned Green Ridge House, a HUD Section 8-202 apartment building for adults aged 62 and older, has 101 single-bedroom apartments with amenities that include a greenhouse, exercise room, computer room, social activities and a library. They also have a service coordinator to link residents with

See **NURSING**, page 13

### What Goes On

#### Monday, March 13

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

#### Wednesday, March 15

7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Greenbelt Park, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov) for more information.

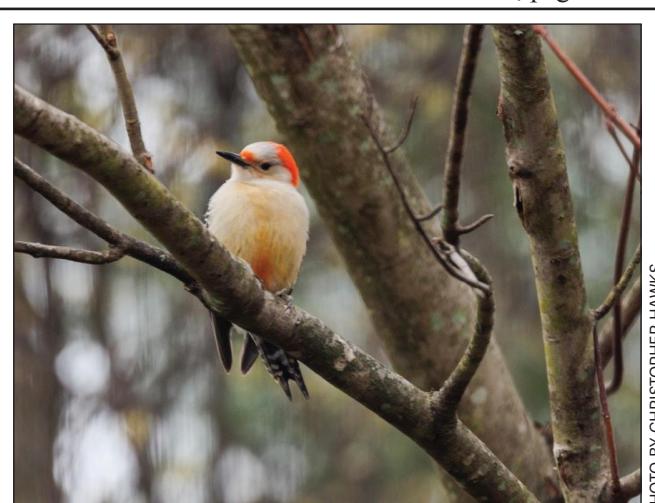


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER HAWKS

Red-bellied woodpecker off Mandan Road



## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



PHOTO BY CAROL SLATIN

The News Review enjoys some beach time in Anguilla (British West Indies). Carol Slatin provided the transportation.

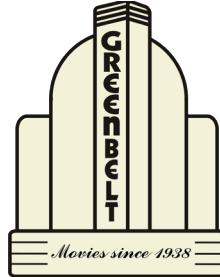
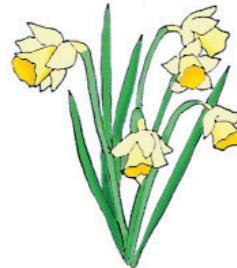
## Crisis Hotline's New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at [samhsa.gov/find-help/988](http://samhsa.gov/find-help/988).



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All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

DVS = Descriptive Video Service

### SHOWTIMES:

MARCH 10TH - MARCH 16TH

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**

### Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris

(PG) (CC) (DVS) (2022)

(115 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM

Sat. 7:30 PM

Sun. 2:30 PM (OC)

Mon. 5:00 PM

Tues. 7:00 PM

Wed. 8:00 PM

Thurs. 5:30 PM

### Marcel the Shell with Shoes On (PG) (CC) (DVS)

(2022) (89 mins)

Fri. 7:45 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)

Tues. 6:00 PM **Screen 2**

Wed. 3:45 PM

Thurs. 6:00 PM **Screen 2**

### Clueless (PG-13) (1995)

(97 mins)

Thurs. 8:00 PM

### Screen 2 - The Screening Room

### The Quiet Girl (PG-13) (CC)

(DVS) (2022) (96 mins)

Irish with English subtitles

Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:30 PM

Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM, 5:15 PM

Mon. 3:00 PM, 5:15 PM

Tues. 8:00 PM

Wed. 5:45 PM **Screen 1**

Thurs. 8:15 PM

## The Old Curmudgeon



"SNOB!"

Cartoon first ran on March 28, 2002

## Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

## On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

### Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris

In partnership with the House of Dior, the film tells the story of a widowed cleaning lady in 1950s London who falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, and decides that she must have one of her own. After she works, starves and gambles to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris which will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior. "The best 'feel good' movies do a little something to restore our faith in humanity," said Roger Moore of Movie Nation, "and this one does that, time and again."

### Marcel the Shell with Shoes On

Marcel is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colorful existence with his grandmother Connie and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. But when a documentary filmmaker discovers them amongst the clutter of his Airbnb, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedeted dangers and a new hope at finding his long-lost family. A beloved character gets his big-screen debut in this hilarious and heartwarming story about finding connection in the smallest corners. A mockumentary directed by Dean Fleischer, with a screenplay by Marcel-creators Jenny Slate and Nick Paley.

### The Quiet Girl

(Irish with English subtitles)

Rural Ireland. 1981. Nine-year-old Cait (newcomer Catherine Clinch) is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. Quietly struggling at school and at home, she has learned to hide in plain sight from those around her. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth. A remarkable debut for writer-director Colm Bairéad, the film offers a deceptively simple reminder that the smallest stories can leave a large emotional impact. The Quiet Girl is the first Irish-language film to be nominated for an Academy Award.

### Clueless

In this 1995 classic, shallow, rich and socially successful Cher (Alicia Silverstone) is at the top of her Beverly Hills high school's pecking scale. Seeing herself as a matchmaker, Cher first coaxes two teachers into dating each other. Emboldened by her success, she decides to give hopelessly klutzy new student Tai (Brittany Murphy) a makeover. When Tai becomes more popular than she is, Cher realizes that her disapproving ex-stepbrother (Paul Rudd) was right about how misguided she was – and falls for him.

# Community Events



PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

Deb Daniel, Effie Levner, Geraldine Adams and Maggie Cahalan work in the Community Center Three Sisters garden on Saturday, March 4.

## Volunteers Needed For CHEARS Gardens

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) seeks volunteers to help maintain and develop the three Greenbelt Three Sisters Gardens. The gardens are located in Schrom Hills Park, near Springhill Lake Recreation Center and at the Community Center.

For more information, call Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

## Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, March 11, at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the Green Comet, Mars, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 7 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.



## Poetry Reading Sunday At Schrom Hills Park

Poetry in the Garden will be holding its monthly poetry reading on Sunday, March 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Club House at Schrom Hills Park.

Bring an original poem to share with the group. All languages are welcome. For more information or questions, email Effie Levner at effielevner@aol.com.

## Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Mondays and Wednesdays at the Community Center beginning at 11 a.m. Meals must be reserved one week ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of March 13 are as follows:

Monday, March 13: Chicken Alfredo, ratatouille, whole wheat bread, tropical fruit and apple juice. Vegetarian option: Lentil Bolognese.

Wednesday, March 15: Sweet and sour meatballs, brown rice, Chinese cabbage, whole wheat bread and applesauce. Vegetarian option: vegetarian stew.

## GIVES Membership Meeting Saturday

GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) will hold its quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, March 11 from 10 to 11 a.m. in Room 114 of the Community Center. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend and learn about GIVES's services and new promotional initiatives.

GIVES is an all-volunteer membership organization that helps Greenbelt residents who need assistance to live independently in their own homes. Services provided include transporting people to medical and other necessary appointments, taking care of pets during hospital stays or other times when seniors cannot, and visiting homebound people for social contact and conversation. All services are free.

To apply for membership, contact GIVES by calling 301-507-6580, emailing givesoffice@gmail.com or visiting the website givesgreenbelt.org for a downloadable membership application form. Members can request a service that will be sent to volunteer providers. Service requests must be submitted at least four business days in advance to allow time to find a match.

Because GIVES is part of a federal grant program under the auspices of the Jewish Council on Aging in Montgomery County and for insurance purposes, all people receiving or providing services must be GIVES members.

For more information, call 301-507-6580 or send an email to givesoffice@gmail.com. The office is staffed from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. every weekday.

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Monday Evening

The Greenbelt Chess Club will next meet on Monday, March 13, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the New Deal Café. All skill levels are welcome. Those with questions should contact Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

## Writers Group Meeting On Friday, March 17

After a hiatus for the winter, the Greenbelt Writers Group will hold its next monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 17 at the Community Center. All current members and interested writers are invited to attend and participate. It will be a time for making plans for the remainder of the year. Those who would like to may bring a brief work of their own to share during the open readings. For more information, contact Barbara Ford at barb.ford@comcast.net.

## Art Class Registration Opens for Residents



PHOTO BY JUDY GOLDBERG STRASSLER

Cara Campbell shows off finished pots and one in progress.

Greenbelt resident registration is now open for all of Greenbelt Recreation's spring arts classes.

From ceramics and oil painting, to woodcarving with axes, sewing and fused glass, a large range of media and creative experiences are available. Registration for non-residents will open Monday, March 13 at 10 a.m. Full class listings and registration information are posted at greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

## Libros Bolas Burbujas

El viernes, 10 de marzo, a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo del Lago Springhill, RUAK (Random Acts of Kindness) con el sistema conmemorativo de bibliotecas del condado de Prince George's presentará interesantes historias y actividades animadas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar la educación temprana y habilidades de alfabetización. Este programa bilingüe mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta para los niños para inculcar el amor por la literatura. Despues de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse a jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Libros infantiles y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos serán gratis.

Como dijo un padre al irse, "¡Fue superdivertido! ¡Unete a nosotros!"

## Pre-K Bilingual Story Time: Books, Bubbles

On Friday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) and Greenbelt Library staff will present engaging lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly bilingual program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature.

After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. Free children's books and healthy nutritious snacks will be distributed.

Register at pgcmls.info/event/8072027.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



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### Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 3/9	FRI 3/10	SAT 3/11	SUN 3/12	
<b>Big Howdy</b> 7-9pm All-star, multi-award winning, progressive bluegrass	<b>Still Standing</b> 8-11pm Best rockin' blues, American roots and Rockabilly in the DMV	<b>Kim's Grand Rounds: The Songwriters' Circle*</b> 1-4pm Bad Influence Band 8-11pm Blues and roots music	<b>Daylight Savings Time</b> Deaf Brunch: 10:30am-12pm <b>The Gliders</b> 6-8pm Harmonica-driven soulful Americana	
MON 3/13	TUES 3/14	WED 3/15	TH 3/16	MON - FRI
<b>Membership Appreciation Night*</b> 4-9pm <b>Chess Club</b> 6-8pm <b>The Other O'Briens</b> , 6-8pm	<b>NDC Open Mike with Tom Woycheck-Gleason</b> 7-9pm Sign in's at 6:30	<b>Pub Quiz*</b> Test your knowledge! Bring your team or form one on the spot! 7-9pm	<b>Kim Eaton &amp; Partners in Trouble present Austin Outer Limits</b> 7-9pm	<b>Happy Hour</b> 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's time to renew your membership or join NDC. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

\*For more information on these events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.



### Greenbelt Access Television

Mar. 11, Sat. - Mar. 17, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77

(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccesstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccesstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Greenbelt News Reel (7am, 11am, 6pm, and 12am)

Women in the Civil War

Greenbelter Donna Peterson explores women's contributions as spies, detectives, doctors, and more.

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

Mary Surratt: Mystery Woman of the Lincoln Assassination

A thought-provoking documentary by Greenbelt filmmaker Susan Gervasi, about a controversial figure and the part she played in a major historical event.

Music From the New Deal Cafe (2pm and 10pm)

The Fly Birds

Enjoy the music of this all-women bluegrass band, from season three!

Elementary School Science Bowl (1pm and 5pm)

Capitol Heights vs Pointer Ridge

Elementary School students test our their scientific literacy on this Prince George's County game show.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccesstv.org](http://greenbeltaccesstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube for new video productions.

It's here!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(in person)

26 MARCH 2023 • 3:00 PM

COMMUNITY CENTER • ROOM 204



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A MEMBER NOW AT:

[WWW.GREENBELTACCESSIONTV.COM/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.GREENBELTACCESSIONTV.COM/MEMBERSHIP)

RSVP: GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com

# Obituaries

## Janet Murphy Zevallos



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Janet Zevallos

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023 Janet Zevallos died peacefully at home in Greenbelt at the age of 55. Janet was born and raised in Montgomery County. She graduated from Paint Branch High School in 1985 and enjoyed a long administrative career at the University of Maryland until her retirement in 2021 due to serious health issues.

Janet was a talented painter and loved many forms of arts and crafts. Her artwork is displayed in her home and the homes of family and friends. She was the smiling face welcoming everyone for the annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival's Photo Show for many years. She also loved to read, garden, breathe in ocean breezes, binge-watch Hallmark movies (and also the animated television series Bluey) and all things Disney. A child of the '80s, she had a sentimental affection for the music of that era and retained many mementos from her teen years.

While her final years required several surgeries and extensive rehab time, she never lost her life-long cheerful nature. She especially cherished her time with family and friends, in person and

on social media.

Janet is predeceased by her mother Harriet Ann Murphy. She is survived by her father Gerald Murphy (Kathryn), her devoted husband Keith Zevallos, loving sister Kathleen Consalvi and brother William Murphy (Maureen), uncles John Murphy and Tom Gottlick, stepchildren Katherine Ann and Keith Jr., nephews and niece Alex and Ashley Consalvi and Colin Murphy, other family members including a furry one named Tobey and by countless friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Monday, March 13 at the Robert E. Evans Funeral Home in Bowie. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Maryland College Park Foundation or the Children's Tumor Foundation (doing advanced research on benign and malignant schwannoma).

### Martina Lange



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Martina Lange

Martina (Tina) Marie Lange, 59, wife of the late Robert F. Lange of Annapolis, died after a brief illness on February 16, 2023, at the Autumn Lake Health Care of Glen Burnie.

Tina was born in San Francisco, Calif., on April 20, 1963, and grew up in Modesto. Most recently she resided with her daughter, Rhiannon, in Annapolis. She enjoyed gardening, cooking

and traveling and loved animals, especially her two cats and her dog.

Tina was predeceased by her husband and soulmate, Robert F. Lange; her sister, Rosalyn Ellis; and her parents, Jesse M. and Aletha E. Schmidt. She is survived by her children, Stephen J. Schmidt and Rhiannon S. Lange; stepdaughters Jessica (Cameron) King and Arielle (Jimmy) Crooks; and her siblings, Charles Schmidt, Judith Medina, Ronald Schmidt, Kenneth Schmidt, Daniel Cruz and Karla Ricker. Tina is also survived by her in-laws David and Sandra Lange of Greenbelt, sister-in-law Alice Chappell and brother-in-law Jonathan (Katherine) Lange and by her devoted friend Fred Miller.

Graveside services will be held at noon on Saturday, April 1, at the Greenbelt Cemetery, 6300 block Ivy Lane, followed by a luncheon and Celebration of Life at the Lange home in Greenbelt.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Tina's name may be made to the SPCA of San Francisco at sfspca.org.

### Melinda Carol Green



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Melinda Carol Green

Melinda Carol (Pierson) Green died on February 25, 2023. She was born August 11, 1955, in Cheverly to Joy R. (Burchett) Pierson and the late Kenneth L. Pierson. On September 9,

1978, she married James (Jim) J. Green. She was a 1974 graduate of Duval High School in Lanham and a lifetime member of Young Life. She and Jim have been part of the Greenbelt community since 1984. Melinda loved music, singing before she talked and playing the guitar. She loved all children, playing games with them, watching them and singing to them. She loved the beach and hearing stories of family history. She will be missed by all.

Melinda is survived by her husband Jim; her Aunt Marguerite (Burchett) Hecker; four siblings, LaVonne Pierson Hamm (Stuart), Lorrie Pierson Falls (Lawrence), Paul Pierson (Ruth) and Mark Pierson (Jennifer); 11 nieces and nephews; several great-nieces and -nephews; and many cousins.

A memorial service will be held at Wallace Presbyterian Church, College Park, on Saturday, March 18 at 11 a.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to World Vision, Inc., PO Box 9716, Federal Way, WA 98063.



"Religion and science are the two wings upon which man's intelligence can soar into the heights, with which the human soul can progress." — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

### Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

#### 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



### Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666

[www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 12 3 p.m.

### Beloved Conversations About Race

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, Mark Denome, Mary Rooker, Rev. Ann Kadlec, Tricia Most

This fall, nine people from Paint Branch participated in the Beloved Conversations program, which offers a variety of anti-racism learning opportunities over a three-month period. For most of the participants, funding was provided by this church, in recognition of the value of this learning for the congregation as a whole. In this service, program participants bring their work home to the congregation, sharing some of their experiences and inviting reflection on what this work might mean for us all.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

## Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



### ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass:
  - Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



## March PORCH Food Pickups

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its program to collect food as follows:

Sunday, March 12. By 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, March 18. By 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, March 19. By 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors)

Sunday, March 26. By 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

If there is no monthly food drive in your neighborhood, you can help through P.A.L. Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com with your address by noon on the scheduled monthly pickup date. Leave donations in a box or bag labelled RUAK or PORCH on the porch or near the front door or other location visible from the street. Only donate food items that have not passed their use-by date.

New volunteers are welcome to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt.



## Golden Age Club Upcoming Events

On March 29, Greenbelt Police Officer Carlos Torres will talk about safety for seniors. Other events for the month include March birthday celebrations (bring a snack to share) on March 15 and Bingo on March 22. All club meetings are held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. All seniors are invited to attend as a member or as a guest.

The anniversary luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at the Holiday Inn in College Park. There is a fee to attend.

## City Notes

Arts and Public Works transformed the Community Center gym into a theater for the Winter Youth Musical. The facility hosted 12 rentals and provided free space to the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, Scouts, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Farmers Market and Advisory Planning Board.

Street Maintenance/Special Details filled ruts in the Cherrywood Lane traffic circle, repaired potholes and hauled mulch to the county compost site. Horticulture/Parks converted tractors, replacing snow plows with mower decks, and Refuse/Recycling collected 21.2 tons of refuse and 8.36 tons of recyclables.

Sustainability/Environmental facilitated Green ACES and Green Team meetings and, at Public Works, 12 scouts and four adults built an osprey nest platform for an Eagle Scout project.

Animal Shelter residents are three dogs, six cats, six kittens and three rabbits after two dogs were adopted.

Senior Nutrition luncheons grew into a second dining hall and GAIL resumed Memory Café in person, with eight participants present and three online.



# City Information & Events

*The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.*

### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

Approval of Agenda and Additions

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- ACE Educator Award Ceremony

- Women's History Month Proclamation

\* Minutes of Council Meetings

- Administrative Reports

\* Committee Reports

- Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report - Ecology Fund Application

- Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2023-01 - Northway Trailhead Erosion

- Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2023-02 - Greenbelt Forest Preserve Ecology Fund

#### LEGISLATION

- Compost and Food Waste Grant Resolution

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- State and County Legislation

- Council Activities

- Council Reports

\* Reappointment to Advisory Board

\* Meetings

\* Stakeholders

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov).*

### MEETINGS FOR MARCH 13-17

Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm, REPARATIONS COMMISSION, Welcome & Check-In, Structure of Commission, Administrative Items, Action Items / Next Steps, Adjourn

Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm, PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Approve January Minutes, Council Liason Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report, Adjourn

Wednesday, March 15 at 7 pm, ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD, On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2022 and January 25, 2023, Introduction of Economic Development Manager, Discussion of ARPA Spending Plan for Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements, Staff Updates

Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30 pm, WORK SESSION - GREENBELT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Thursday, March 16 at 5:30 pm, BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, March 16 at 7 pm, PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, On the Agenda: Discussion of Plateau Place Shooting, Review of Weekly Police Reports, Next Steps Regarding Update of PSAC's 2017 Security Camera Report

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov).*

#### COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.**

#### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS GRANT PROGRAM

Find out more about the City of Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers grant program today! The grant funds can be used for closing costs and/or down payment for FHA, VA, USDA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac loans. <http://ow.ly/xIKZ50My327>

#### ENGAGE GREENBELT

For all up-to-date ARPA program updates including mortgage assistance programs, scholarships, first-time homebuyer grant programs, small business assistance, and more visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

### CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §35, City Manager-Appointment; Qualifications; Term of Office; Removal; Acting City Manager, to provide the Council the discretion to permit a City Manager to live outside the City of Greenbelt, and update gender references to the City Manager.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on **MARCH 23, 2023, AT 7:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL ROOM** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please **contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.**

**Bonita Anderson, City Clerk**

### CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §35, City Manager-Appointment; Qualifications; Term of Office; Removal; Acting City Manager, to provide the Council the discretion to permit a City Manager to live outside the City of Greenbelt, and update gender references to the City Manager.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on **APRIL 1, 2023 AT 10 AM IN THE COUNCIL ROOM** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please **contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.**

**Bonita Anderson, City Clerk**

### GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

*Application period open through March 31 LAST WEEKS TO APPLY!*

The purpose of the Greenbelt Education Scholarship grant is to provide assistance for residents interested in furthering their education beyond high school. Scholarships can be used to assist with the cost of college, trade school, or other educational opportunities.

Qualified residents are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 over two years. For more information visit [greenbeltdmd.gov/scholarship](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/scholarship)

### PRE-K STORY HOUR (BILINGUAL)

Friday, March 10, at 10:30 - 11:30 am

Springhill Lake Recreation

For more information contact [joseph.vincent@pgcmls.info](mailto:joseph.vincent@pgcmls.info) or [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com)

### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Thursday, March 16

jueves, 16 de marzo

1 - 3 pm

Greenbelt Community Center

Greenbelt Community Center

15 Crescent Road

15 Crescent Road

### GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL: THE JOY GODS RETURN

Be transported back in time by *The Joy Gods Return*, written and directed by Christopher Cherry.

**Saturday March 11, 2pm and 7pm.**

Greenbelt Community Center Gymnasium. All ages \$5. Purchase tickets at the Community Center Business Office or by phone (301) 397-2208.

Details: <https://bit.ly/3kc8NSM>.

### 2023 GREENBELT WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt Welcome Kit is back! This long-standing tradition of providing new Greenbelt residents a physical welcome to the community is in full swing.

The City of Greenbelt, Public Information Office, is now accepting items (flyers, pens, postcards, brochures, tchotchkies, etc.) to be added to the 2023 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 250 promotional items to the address below by **Friday, April 14**.

A Review

# Present and Past Cross at Arts Center in Stoppard's Arcadia

by Carol Griffith

Crackling dialogue, smart wordplay and existential questions are just part of the experience of *Arcadia*, now playing at the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC). Set in the same room of an old English country estate, scenes alternate between 1809 and contemporary times as the events of the past intermingle with contemporary concerns and knowledge until the dramatic concluding scene in which actors of both eras occupy the stage at the same time.

Written by prominent British playwright Tom Stoppard, the play weaves together mathematical theories first proposed by a child prodigy in 1809 with today's computerized knowledge. Similarly, poetry written in 1809 at the estate is rediscovered in this century, but the identity of the poet is a mystery. There's something to appeal to everyone here — scientists and literary types alike — and the juxtaposition is fascinating. Adding rumors of marital infidelity, a pistol duel (offstage) and the presence (also offstage) of a famous poet adds to the complexity. There's even a hilarious poke at academia and revising history in the character of a modern scholar (wonderfully played by Brian Binney).

Many of the cast members are

well known to the GAC stage and it's a delight to see their excellent performances. Coincidental to the theme of past and present connections explored in the play is the fact that *Arcadia* was first performed at GAC in 1997 and the actress who then played the 13-year-old child now plays the scientist who investigates her mathematical theories. *Arcadia* deserves its enduring popularity.

The GAC is located at 124

Centerway. Performances of *Arcadia* run about three hours with one 15-minute intermission. Shows will take place at 8 p.m. on the Fridays of March 10 and 17 and Saturday, March 11; matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 12 and Saturday, March 18. For tickets visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org) or call 301-441-8770. Masks are required in GAC at all times.



Valentine Coverly (left, played by Laura Fisher) and Hannah Jarvis (Lauren Winther-Hansen) examine documents from 1809 they have found.



Lord Chater (left, played by Aref Dajani) and tutor Septimus Hodge (Daniel Dausman) discuss poetry in "Arcadia."



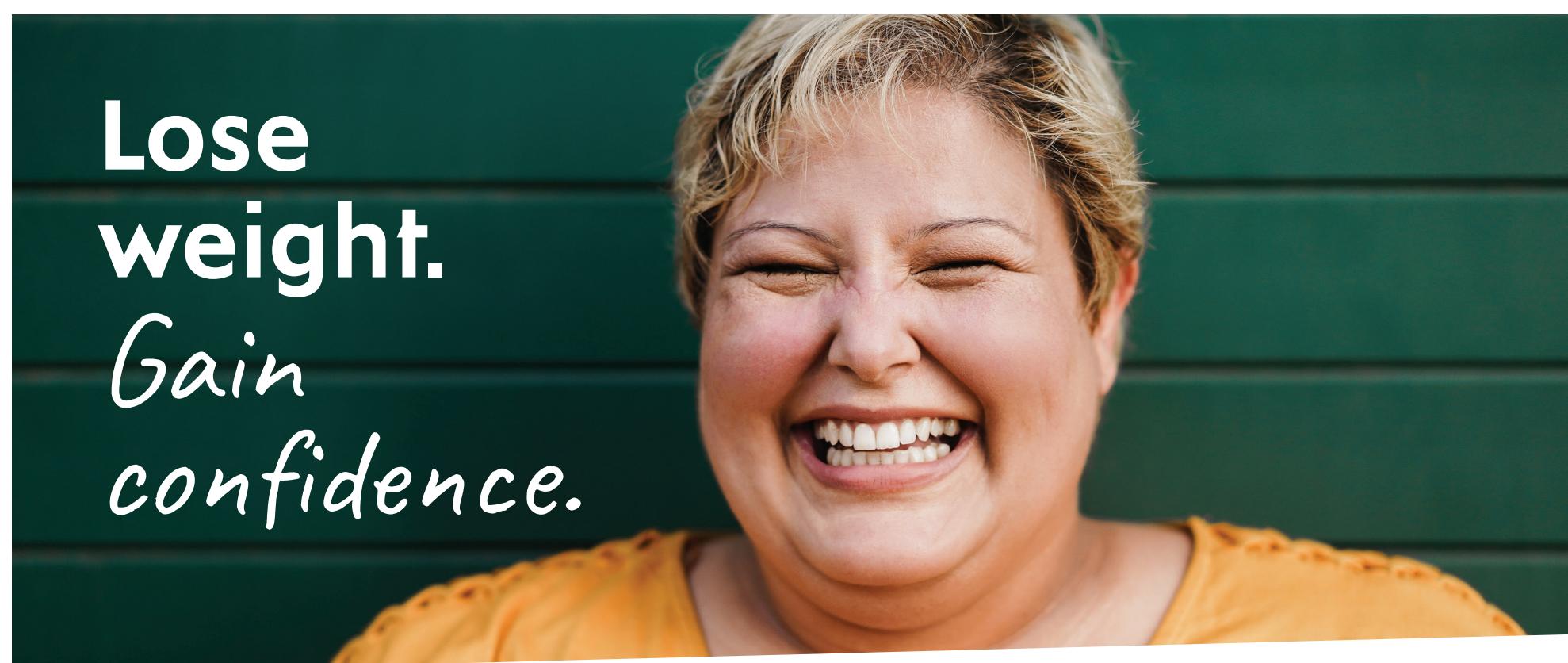
**GREENBELT ARTS CENTER**  
**March 3 - 18, 2023**

Fridays and Saturdays\* at 8pm  
Sundays at 2pm  
\*Closing matinee on Saturday March 18 at 2pm  
Tickets \$12 - \$24  
For tickets call (301) 441-8770  
or visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Coming soon : The Beaux Stratagem, a production from the Rude Mechanicals in Residence at GAC

Arcadia is produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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▪ **Support groups:** We offer support groups for patients to share their experiences. There's no cost to attend.

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## BOARD continued from page 1

grabbing, complete falsification of facts and potential perjury."

Referring to a group of board members – Shayla Adams-Stafford, Raaheela Ahmed, Edward Burroughs, Kenneth Harris, David Murray and Joshua Thomas – as "the six," Miller said they provided "false" and "misleading" statements to constituents and sought her removal, beginning with a "threat" from one just five days into her term as chair. Miller said she sought legal counsel as she was "harassed, bullied and disrespected" and facing false allegations. At the time, she noted, the board had no legal counsel of its own.

Current Chair Judy Mickens-Murray pushed back against the implication that the legal fees were incurred because the board had no counsel for a period, stating that for almost a year the board has had legal counsel. That counsel also noted that they represent the board rather than individual members.

Miller characterized herself as a whistleblower who had revealed infractions by board members and been retaliated against. "I was a whistleblower and now I'm being harassed," she said.

She highlighted the ethics panel investigation into seven board members which recommended the resignation or removal of six of them. (The Maryland Office of the Inspector General for Education subsequently called those findings "flawed," reported that the ethics panel had violated some board policies and found that Miller, as one of those calling for the investigation, should have recused herself rather than voting to accept the findings. The all-volunteer ethics panel then resigned en masse.) Miller claimed "the six" filed to remove her from office "for doing my job of exposing [their] violations," which included campaign contributions, lobbyist contracts and unauthorized contracts on behalf of the board, she said.

Her fees were drawn out further, said Miller, by the fact that complaints were refiled and added to. She stated that of 35 brought against her by board members the state chose to pursue only two. She spoke of being confronted at her home by media and repeated her warning: "This could be you." Her prepared remarks were greeted with some applause, to which Chair Mickens-Murray said, "OK, that's enough," as she sought to move to discussion.

### Legal Counsel Advice

The legal counsel to the board advised that certain board members, namely Miller, herself, Shayla Adams-Stafford, Kenneth Harris and David Murray (three of those who brought charges against Miller and are still on the board) and Pamela Boozer-Strother could participate in discussion but could not vote due to their conflict of interest.

Board member Boozer-Strother was the most outspoken in favor of paying the fees. She repeatedly asked the two members of the board's legal counsel to repeat the advice they'd previously given in "very strong terms" that not paying Miller's fees would be "perilous" for those running for the board in the future and would incur greater legal fees going forward. The legal counsel responded to her questions to say that it was something that was at the board's discretion and that Miller had made a good case

herself by repeatedly telling the board members "This could be you." "I guess you're not going to repeat what you shared with us before," Boozer-Strother conceded as she gave up her attempts to have them articulate the danger in a precedent of not paying board members' fees.

Boozer-Strother also disagreed with the counsel's view that board members should be recused from the vote for conflict of interest. "I think this vote is about something completely separate from the facts of the case, that this is about protecting this board, that every single board member should be on record about paying these legal fees," argued Boozer-Strother. "This is about a board policy that we may pay a chair's legal fees." The counsel, however, maintained that if the decision was to end up in court, then it would be important that only "uninterested members" voted. "Every board member who has served here until September has expressed an interest in this case," argued Boozer-Strother, but the legal counsel repeated that they believed there was a conflict of interest.

Board member Jonathan Briggs, representative for District 2, which includes Greenbelt, seemed to speak in favor of tabling the vote again, though he made no motions. He noted that the board had previously tabled this vote because they'd received only one side's information. Now they'd received further information, he said, but it was a 150-page document shared just hours earlier, which he said they hadn't had a chance to fully digest.

David Murray, one of those Miller referred to as "the six," spoke strongly against paying Miller's fees. If he was able to vote, he said, he'd vote against it. "My constituents did not send me here to spend \$150,000 dollars that could go to teachers and children to pay personal legal fees," he argued, and he also attempted to counter Miller's claim that this could happen to any board member in the course of carrying out the board's work. "She was issued charges of removal by the State Education Board because she went far beyond her capacity. These weren't just random charges that came out of nowhere," he argued. He also noted that Miller entered into the agreement with her lawyers without sharing it with the board or getting board approval. "She probably didn't because the board would have voted no as the board has voted no repeatedly," he said, expressing a wish to move on to things that will "actually affect the lives of students." "There are so many more pressing things in our school district that we should be discussing," said Murray and he asked his colleagues to "vote no, abstain, whatever we need to do to save taxpayers' dollars so that when we get to our budget amendments we might be able to vote some of them up to provide for our children and families." His remarks were met with applause.

In response to Murray's comments, Miller argued that the case was dismissed in January 2022, but a board member refiled and added additional charges, thus continuing her legal costs. The group of six members had a majority vote, she said, and were upset she'd exposed them and that they'd had violations that were sent to the state. "It

is not the State of Maryland that's pressing the charges.... These charges are by those six. They're costing the board," countered Miller. "I am categorized as a whistleblower," she again asserted.

### Vote

When it came time to vote, Mickens-Murray allowed the full roll to be called and declined to enforce the legal counsel's advice that certain board members must recuse themselves. "If adults in this room decide that they want to vote, they vote. But then there are consequences to that if you vote and you have a conflict, so understand that please," she said. In the end Adams-Stafford, Harris and Murray recused themselves. Boozer-Strother voted, against the counsel's advice. Several members chose to abstain rather than vote. Five board members voted, three for paying the legal fees and two against, including Briggs. Without the required number of votes in favor the motion failed.

### Public Comments

In the public comment section which came later, Tanya Lingfield argued that the board was violating the Open Meetings Act by not providing copies of the agenda and documents at the meeting and by taking a vote on a matter before the public had their chance to comment. Lingfield argued that there was said to be enough evidence to pay Miller's legal fees at a previous meeting and that they'd been warned it would cost more if they didn't. "Now it's going to cost us more because you all have allowed board members to lie," alleged Lingfield. "They have said 'we are independent people,' but they used in their complaint against a board member confidential information that we wouldn't be privy to, but they used it and called themselves 'individual citizens,'" she claimed.

She also took issue with the board members who chose not to vote but hadn't been asked to recuse themselves: "It's no excuse for any recusals or for any abstentions unless you are part of that lying crew. There's no excuse for votes not to have been taken tonight. You're gettin' paid, do your job! Because at this point, there more than likely will be a lawsuit, as we were told on December 8 and you will lose because it will show that there were plenty lies...."

A former employee of PGCPs, Donna Young, also spoke to allege that the school system is repeatedly violating policies and procedures and that "whistleblowers get fired." She identified herself as one of those who had filed a case because a contract was signed without authorization. Young said she is still waiting for her termination case to be reviewed by the board. She was told it had been reviewed, but upon checking there was no record of any meeting, and she's still waiting.

Jayna Parker, who also made comments during the public comment portion, pointed out that the county executive asked Miller to step down before legal procedures began. "If she actually listened to the county executive and stepped down, we wouldn't be voting on legal fees now, would we?" asked Parker.

## School Board Rep. Briggs Addresses Council Meeting

by Cathie Meetre and Anna Bedford-Dillow

At the Greenbelt City Council meeting on February 27, School Board Member Jonathan Briggs reported on ongoing school system issues. He noted that the recruitment of a new superintendent was proceeding steadily and that the new budget was also proceeding on schedule with a series of reviews to make sure that budget dollars go in proportion to the right places.

### Budget

Briggs referred to a student-based budgeting model as the way resources were specified and distributed, noting that the proportion of students needing special assistance was a factor in allocating money to schools. He noted, for example, that the budget offered a ratio of one guidance counselor per 250 students, provoking a sharp response from Councilmember Silke Pope (who teaches at Springhill Lake Elementary) that it was not enough.

Briggs passed on that scores for recent statewide English and language arts (ELA) and mathematics performance testing last fall were now available, noting that although ELA scores had returned to 2019 pre-pandemic levels, math scores were still lagging. (In fact, in one of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program ratings only 10 percent of Prince George's

County Public Schools (PGCPS) students tested proficient. See the February 2 issue of the News Review for reporting of the county test scores in ELA and math.)

### Attendance

Councilmember Judith Davis asked about three concerns: school boundaries, truancy and faked addresses. She noted that truancy was also linked to delinquency and, by her own observation, students seemed to be leaving school in increasing numbers. Briggs replied that truancy policies were the province of individual principals and not set countywide, although there were goals and there is currently a survey underway to measure how both students and staff felt about their school experiences.

PGCPS does have a School Attendance, Absence and Truancy Policy, which identifies habitually truant students as those who have been unlawfully absent for 20 percent or more of school days. The policy states that parents or guardians must be notified if a student misses 10 percent of the school days in a quarter. According to the PGCPS procedure, students with

See **BRIGGS**, page 12



Beautiful pale pink Magnolia Stellata blooms by the Community Center.

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER

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## At the Library

Regular hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library's schedule are posted at [pgcmls.info/alerts](http://pgcmls.info/alerts).

### Storytimes

Friday, March 10, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/7892645](http://pgcmls.info/event/7892645).

Monday, March 13, 10:15 a.m., ages birth to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/7891647](http://pgcmls.info/event/7891647).

Tuesday, March 14, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/7890388](http://pgcmls.info/event/7890388).

Come for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

### Teen Action Group

Wednesday, March 15, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Come make a difference in the community, earn community service hours, gain new friends and be heard. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/7891951](http://pgcmls.info/event/7891951).

### Virtual Events

PGCMLS continues to offer virtual events for the public. The schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events).

### VolunTEENs

Prince George's County teens in grades six to 12 can earn student service learning (SSL) hours through participation in the Library's VolunTEEN program. Teens may submit the information needed for each VolunTEEN prompt in Beanstack via the link at [pgcmls.info/teens](http://pgcmls.info/teens). All of the necessary information must be provided to earn SSL hours through the VolunTEEN program up to a maximum of 12 SSL hours.

### Reading Challenge

PGCMLS and the Washington Wizards basketball team offer the Winter Reading Challenge through March 31. Visit [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info) for more information and to register.

### Chromebooks

Online 2Go Chromebooks may be borrowed from the Library by those 18 and older with library cards in good standing, one device per customer. No LINK or student accounts are allowed.

The Chromebooks have a six-week loan period which may be renewed once for another six weeks if there are no hold requests from other customers. Further information is available at [pgcmls.info/borrow-technology](http://pgcmls.info/borrow-technology).



## Yarn and Darn Meets Wednesdays

Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, rug hookers, seamstresses et al. bring your portable fiber arts to the Community Center to chat and socialize while working on individual projects.

This is a free social meet-up. Participants must bring their own projects and materials. No registration required. Meetings are Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 113.

Email [alarsen@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:alarsen@greenbeltdmd.gov) for more information.

# Scramble the Duck: Quacking Offers Groundhog Alternative in Connecticut

by Dinah Cohen

Across the United States on February 2, people wait with bated breath for the predictions of Punxsutawney Phil, the weather-predicting groundhog. Phil is well known – and undoubtedly cute – but his accuracy is severely lacking. According to a Stormfax article, which compared Phil's prediction to the actual weather that followed, the famous groundhog's prognostication accuracy is 36 percent. This is not a pass in even the most generous class, so why are we still listening to this rodent?

Well, you say, what is the alternative?

I say: Scramble the Duck.

Scramble is a native of Eastford, Conn., and a graduate of Stormy Heights Academy with a Ducktoral Degree in weather prediction. Scramble II and his predecessor Scramble Senior have been predicting the weather on February 2 since 2014, with an amazing record of 100 percent

accuracy. Like Punxsutawney Phil, Scramble looks for his shadow to determine the future weather. In addition to the accolades that come from his advanced degree, Scramble has received recognition from the Connecticut General Assembly in the form of a certificate congratulating the duck on his superb accuracy.

Greenbelt resident Dinah Cohen was invited by one of Scramble's handlers to assist with Duck Day 2023, and eagerly drove to Connecticut to participate in this momentous event. The weather was chilly, but Scramble was not fazed. He emerged from his duck hut and was ceremoniously placed upon a table. After several long, tense seconds, Scramble began to quack. While the typical audience member might not understand Duck, an interpreter was present and ready to interpret Scramble's eloquent proclamation: "An extended season, bad news, for sure. My shadow!"



Duck Day officials and representatives

PHOTO BY MICHAEL COHEN

Alas, the world's most accurate weather predictor predicted six more weeks of winter for 2023. Fittingly enough, February 2 was followed by a record-breaking cold snap that delivered -100 degrees F wind chill at Mount

Washington, though Eastford remained at a relatively balmy -35 degrees F. How Scramble's prediction for a long, cold winter will play out in Greenbelt remains to be seen.

## STORY TIME continued from page 1

this where she can come and interact with other kids since she's not in daycare, so she can run around and get some of that energy out. I love the bilingual aspect of the song and dance. She loves books." Mom reads to her daily. When asked if she would return, she giggled and said, "Absolutely! I will be back every month. I will be putting a reminder on my phone in order to remember."

### Addressing a Need

Goldberg-Strassler has been working on literacy in the underserved areas of Greenbelt for years. He noticed children falling further and further behind in their reading competence since the pandemic. The day before February's storytime event, he dropped off 1,000 books at Springhill Lake Elementary. Each child gets two free books every other month. He dropped three boxes of books at Greenbelt Middle School.

Goldberg-Strassler, who sometimes can't help but wear his heart on his sleeve and a smile on his face, was just as energetic when there were once just three attendees as he was with over 12 families present this month. He happily gave out free books, balls and snacks, and even joined in a quick game of catch with one of the attendees.

Hosting the event at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center allows nearby residents to walk

to the event, eliminating the need for transportation in the middle of the day. Bilingual literacy enables children to learn in the language with which they are most comfortable. According to American University's School of Education, this increases communication skills, provides higher literacy and helps with cultural and social growth.

"The parents and children don't know what services and resources are out there due to bar-



Families enjoy Bilingual Story Time.

PHOTO BY GLORIA WALTERS-FLOWERS

riers put up that are out of their control. If I can bring information, books and smiles it works," said Goldberg-Strassler.

The next story time is Friday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.



## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on

March 16, 2023

### GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on February 2, 2023
- Request from a GHI Member for a Rental Permit Extension
- Contract for Telephone Services
- Contract with a Reserve Advisor Firm to Update Replacement Reserve Studies
- Member Complaint Matters

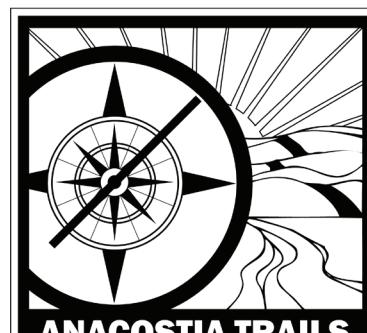
### GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. - open to visitors and members

- Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on March 2, 2023
- Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on March 16, 2023
- Approval of Addendum for Trust Ownership and Trustee's Affidavit for a GHI Member
- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on February 2, 2023
- Companion Animal Committee's Report to the Board re: July to December 2022 Activities and 2023 Goals
- Permit Request for Installing a Fence in the Serviceside Yard of a GHI Unit
- Finance Committee's Recommendation re: Relocation Payments to Members Participating in the Pipe Replacement Pilot Program
- Proposed Amendments to GHI Bylaws
- Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on April 6, 2023

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocOGgpjliG9dSX9Z8Zcl8xQmls9q9rgoy%C2%A0>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



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## Save the Research Center from Industrial Development

**The Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center**, otherwise known as BARC, is a 6500-acre agricultural research facility. As of 2012, it was the largest agricultural research facility in the world. But did you know that BARC as we know it was a New Deal project?

In the 1700s- BARC land was a plantation called Walnut Grange, owned by colonists and worked by enslaved persons. The land continued to be farms and woodland until purchased by the Department of Agriculture in 1910. Development greatly expanded during the 1930s. Several New Deal agencies were involved in this massive project to build a state-of-the-art agricultural research facility. 2,238 men constructed offices and laboratories throughout the property. They built animal pens, barns and fences, as well as storage facilities and specialized experimental facilities. Under this project, a wide variety of general improvement work was done, including clearing land, installing drainage, reforestation, constructing erosion control devices, clearing stream channels, constructing secondary roads, placing water mains and many other activities. As you drive down Powder Mill Road you should be aware that the stately old laboratory buildings, the lush fields of grain, the picture-perfect copses of trees and the contoured road are no accident. They reflect the landscape design and zeitgeist of the 1930s. BARC is as worthy of historic preservation as the New Deal buildings and forest preserve of Old Greenbelt.

Over the past 100 years BARC has been on the forefront of agricultural and human nutrition research. They have had many important breakthroughs and their scientific findings steadily contribute to the incremental accumulation of scientific knowledge. BARC discoveries have impacted all agricultural aspects of our prosperity, and BARC scientists continue to make contributions that impact agriculture around the world. Microbial and human food safety, sustainable perennial crops, hydrology and remote sensing, animal parasitic diseases and bee research are just a few of their current research groups.

Despite its agricultural mission, various agencies such as NASA and FDA have steadily chipped away at Research Center property. These facilities also have in general a research or informational mission. However, the Department of the Treasury is planning to build a 1,000,000 ft<sup>2</sup> industrial plant for printing currency. They are taking 122 acres and using thousands of gallons of water per day out of Beaver Dam Creek for the manufacturing process.



Rare Savanna Habitat



Photo courtesy of U.S. A.C.E.

*The BARC facility will be very similar to this production facility in Fort Worth, Tx.*

Aside from the 50 ft.-high plant itself, there will be a steady flow of diesel armored trucks traveling on BARC roads to move money and bring supplies. There will be approximately 1600 employees working three shifts. The plant will operate 24 hrs per day and seven days a week. This facility is not in keeping with the mission of BARC.

The water pollution and environmental destruction caused by this facility will be devastating to the local environment, including the many animals and plants that have thrived in the area for the past 100 years.

The combined area of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center and the Patuxent Wildlife Center comprises the largest undisturbed tract of forested land close to the nation's capital. It is home to many endangered plant and animal species. It is crossed by several migratory bird corridors. This area is known as the lungs of the mid-Atlantic region.

Treasury has not adequately considered the effects of this project on the environment of BARC or on the people living in surrounding neighborhoods. What about the impact of breathing diesel fumes and construction dust 24 hours a day, both at home and in school? The building site is a quarter mile from Vansville Elementary and numerous single-family homes.

As required by law, the Treasury Department has written an environmental impact statement. However, this EIS is suited to their needs, and is woefully inadequate. Many important questions have not been answered, such as why did Treasury fail to consider any other less environmentally sensitive sites? Surely there are places more suitable in the area than this land. Treasury based their assessment on an ever-growing need for cash. Why haven't they considered the diminishing use of cash because of the rise in non-cash payments? Have they checked for burials of enslaved persons or other archaeological artifacts? What will a lighted 10 ft perimeter fence around this high-security facility look like? It certainly would not be in keeping with the other buildings on BARC.

They say they will replant some trees—however, it will take decades to replace the 300 large trees scheduled for removal. Why not choose a cleared site?

This printing factory is designed to put 120,000 gallons of waste water per day through the BARC East Waste Water Treatment Plant, which has had hundreds of Clean Water Act permit violations over the past two years. The contaminated water used to wash copper and zinc off printing plates will flow into Beaver Dam Creek. The BARC eagles fish in Beaver Dam Creek. After 40 years of restoration efforts, mainly by concerned citizens, the lower Anacostia watershed is beginning to support native plants and fish. That progress is certainly imperiled.

The multicolored bat which has been found on this property is scheduled to be listed as endangered. Why have they made no plans to protect it? The project land is currently filled with nesting birds and animals. On the proposed property and on other areas of BARC, beginning in the 1970s, BARC scientists and volunteers built nesting boxes that saved the bluebird from extinction. Yet this year caretakers of the bluebird boxes have already been asked to remove them. The eagles' nest where three eaglets successfully fledged last fall is also less than half a mile from the building site. Birders have observed eagles foraging on the proposed site. What will parking lots lit through the night, constant diesel and traffic fumes, and construction dust do to them? Treasury has ignored these issues, and has failed to consider the impact of this project upon humans, wildlife and vegetation.

Building this facility will pollute the air and water. It will damage the local ecosystem and result in the compromised health of residents as well as death to many animals and plants. It opens the door to more industrial development on BARC. Why damage an area that is home to endangered species and natural areas that have been undisturbed for over 100 years? BARC is an environmental gem, a historic New Deal-created scientific community of outstanding natural beauty. Treasury would do better to find an already industrialized site.

**Please share your concerns with your Representative Glenn Ivey (202) 225-8699 , and Senators Ben Cardin (202) 224-4524 and Chris Van Hollen (301) 322-6560.**

## Officers Meet Community, Appreciate Partnership

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Members of the Greenbelt Police Department met with residents at Starbucks in Greenway Center on Friday morning for Coffee with a Cop. Over coffee and doughnuts, attendees had the chance for casual conversation with officers about any questions or public safety concerns they had. About an hour into the event multiple calls buzzed over the radio and the group of officers dispersed in different directions for various reports, including attempted car theft.

Officer Carlos Torres and Pub-

lic Information Officer Hannah Glasgow remained to staff the community event. Glasgow told the News Review it had been well attended and they hoped to hold the next event on a Saturday to allow more to attend.

Torres said he appreciated their partnership with the community. Citizens' calls when they see something are helping to stem the tide of car thefts, for example, as police have been responding in time to make numerous arrests, he said.



### Free Puppet Show On March 18

Greenbelters Ingrid and Ole Hass of Beech Tree Puppets will present a free puppet show, Anansi and the Talking Melon, at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Rd, College Park, at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 18.

Join Elephant, Warthog and Ostrich on their jolly adventure to the Monkey King as they seek help for their tricky friend, Anansi. A folk tale for all ages, sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange.



PHOTO COURTESY BEECH TREE PUPPETS



### Camp Registration Now Open for All

Registration is open for Greenbelt Recreation's 2023 spring break and summer camps for both Greenbelt residents and non-residents. Programs are available for children ages 3.5 to 17 years, including arts, dance, sports, music, field trips and more. Inclusion services and financial assistance are available, as well as before- and after-care.

View the Camp Guide and registration materials at [bit.ly/3X4l0pQ](http://bit.ly/3X4l0pQ).

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### Greenbelt Summer Peace Builders Camp

Greenbelt Community Church will host a Peace Builder Camp July 24 to 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camps are week-long Little Friends for Peace programs designed to introduce peace to children ages 5 to 14. The camp utilizes art, games and presentations to teach children mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution and self-empowerment. Students bring their own lunches.

The peace circle process is used to teach the curriculum. The programs share a peace toolbox, which empowers individuals to deepen compassion, empathy and love and imparts skills for living peacefully and spreading peace in communities.

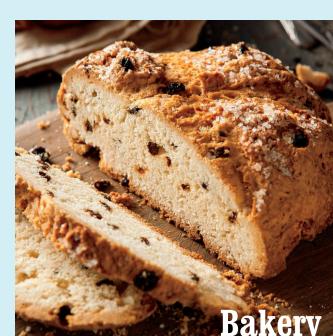
For cost and to register, visit [lffp.org/peacecamp](http://lffp.org/peacecamp). For more information, email [peacecamp@lffp.org](mailto:peacecamp@lffp.org) or call MJ Park at 240-838-4549.



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred from February 27 through March 5. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Remember: if you see something, say something! Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltdmd.gov). Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

## Shootings

On February 27 at 10:27 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Court, officers responded to the 9100 block of Springhill Court for the report of a shooting, and located a van that was struck several times with bullets. The van was running and unoccupied but officers did not locate any victims or suspects. A handgun, taser and controlled substances were found in the van. Two additional cars and a residence were also struck by bullets. Witnesses reported seeing a group of males run away after the shots were fired, but had no additional suspect descriptions.

On March 2 at 4:16 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, police officers responded to a non-contact shooting in the 6000 block of Springhill Drive. The suspect(s) shot from, and fled in a tan Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate 9FD6812), which was stolen from Prince George's County. No injuries have been reported, but several cars were struck by bullets. If you spot the Elantra, do not approach as the suspects are considered armed; contact GPD at 301-474-5454 immediately.

## Attempted Robbery

On February 27 at 4:10 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, victim was walking on the path that connects Breezewood Drive to the rear of Beltway Plaza when he was approached by a Black man with shoulder length dreadlocks wearing a black long-sleeve shirt, blue jeans and white sneakers, who grabbed the victim's wrist and asked him what he had. The victim pulled away, ran towards the rear of Beltway Plaza, and was chased by the suspect and two others. The suspects assaulted the victim and attempted to take the victim's airpods but were unsuccessful; as a result, the airpods were broken. Suspect #2 is described as a male, wearing black ski mask, black jacket, black jeans and black shoes with white line design. Suspect #3 is described as a male, wearing black shirt, orange colored book bag, gray jeans and black-and-white shoes.

## Robbery

On March 3 at 11:24 a.m. near Mandan Road/Canning Terrace, an adult woman was at a bus stop when she was approached by a tall man with a skinny build, wearing all black with a ski mask. The man grabbed her purse, causing both to fall on the ground. The victim was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

## Armed person

On March 4 at 2:23 p.m. near 7500 Mandan Road, officers responded to the report of an armed subject. Upon arrival, officers saw four juveniles running from the rear of the building. Officers detained a 16-year-old boy

and a 17-year-old boy. Both were released to their parents.

## Assaults

On March 3 at 7:18 p.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, customer threw object at a drive-thru worker after food was mislabeled. On March 5 at 2:23 a.m. near 5800 Greenbelt Road, customer reported security employee assaulted him. On March 5 at 1:34 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a fight between employee and former employee.

## Fraud

On February 27 at 12:46 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, EBT fraud. March 3 at 12:53 p.m. near Ridge Road, victim sent checks to a person pretending to be a Customs and Border Patrol agent.

## Break-in

On March 4 at 2:53 p.m. near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, personal property stolen from residence after keys were left in the door.

## Disorderly

On March 1 at 1:58 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man banned from commercial property returned and threatened security.

## Fight

On March 4 at 11:50 p.m. near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a fight between adults resulted in both having minor injuries.

## Missing Person Located

On March 5 at 12:16 a.m. near 550 Crescent Road, a missing 17-year-old returned home.

## Shell Casings Found

On March 3 at 2:24 p.m. near 100 Westway, two shell casings found next to the rain gutter. The reporting party said he heard gunshots outside of his apartment around 2 p.m. but did not call police at the time.

## Shoplifting

On March 3 at 7:36 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, commercial theft.

## Trespassing

On March 1 at 9:09 a.m. near 6200 Breezewood Court, officers assisted management in securing a vacant apartment after the glass door was broken. March 2 at 7:35 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Drive, an adult man was arrested on open warrants after he was found trespassing.

## Vandalism

On March 1 at 1:08 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, the common area of apartment building was vandalized with graffiti.

## Vehicle Crimes

### Attempted Auto Theft

On March 1 at 6:50 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, the rear passenger-side window was broken, consistent with the current theft of auto trend. The ignition was not tampered with due to proper use of a steering wheel club lock. March 1 at 1:23 p.m. near 9200 Springhill Lane, a

2021 Hyundai Sonata had the passenger rear window broken and the ignition and steering column damaged.

On March 1 at 2:27 p.m. near 7400 Frankfort Place, Hyundai sedan had the rear passenger window broken and the ignition damaged. On March 2 at 9:47 a.m. near Parkway, Greenbelt Police officers responded to the area of 21 Parkway for the report of two teenagers breaking the window of a Hyundai. Officers located and arrested two 14-year-old boys for attempted theft of auto and vandalism. One of the 14-year-olds was previously arrested by GPD officers on December 6, 2022, after he crashed a stolen Hyundai Sonata into the Hook & Reel Restaurant on Greenbelt Road.

On March 2 at 4:30 p.m. near Parkway, officers responded to the area of 16 Parkway for the report of four teenagers looking into a red Hyundai. When officers arrived, they saw two teenagers sitting in the car and two standing outside. After a brief foot chase, three of the four were taken into custody. Two 16-year-old boys and a 16-year-old girl were arrested and charged with attempted theft of motor vehicles and vandalism.

On March 4 at 1:24 p.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, witnesses observed two teenagers sitting in 2017 Kia Sorento. As the witness began walking toward the car, the teenagers ran. The car had the rear passenger-side window broken and the ignition damaged. Suspect 1 is described as a younger aged male, wearing all black clothing, dark jacket with fur. Suspect 2 is described as a younger aged male, wearing a blue and black north face jacket.

On March 5 at 3:05 p.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a 2015 Kia Sorento had the driver-side rear window broken and the ignition damaged.

## Auto Recovered

On March 1 at 8:10 a.m. near 6300 Ivy Lane, a stolen vehicle located with a broken window

and ignition damage. At 8:44 a.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, a stolen 2017 Kia Soul found with its rear driver-side window broken and the ignition damaged. At 5:37 p.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, a stolen 2011 Kia Sportage was located. On March 1 at 11:41 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a stolen Hyundai Elantra was located with the passenger-side window broken and the ignition damaged.

## Auto Theft

On March 1 at 7:20 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court, a 2017 Hyundai Sonata (Md. plate 4FD0333) was stolen. March 1 at 7:43 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2013 Hyundai Sonata was found with the rear right passenger window broken and the steering wheel column damaged. The owner confirmed the car had been stolen. At 8:06 a.m. near 8000 Mandan Road, a gray 2018 Kia Forte (Md. plate 7DM1821) was stolen. On March 3 at 10:53 a.m. near Breezewood Court/Edmonston Terrace, a stolen white 2020 Hyundai Accent found with the doors open sitting on the wrong side of the road and a group of juveniles running away. Five teenagers were detained after a short foot chase, one had a juvenile warrant and was arrested, and the other four were released to their guardians. At 11:36 a.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, 2016 Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate 3AF3983) was stolen. On March 5 at 8:42 a.m. near 5300 Settling Pond Lane, a black 2012 Chevrolet Camaro (Md. plate 9EV6507) was reported stolen. Officers later located the car around 10 p.m. blocking traffic and had it towed.

## Theft from Auto

On February 27 at 5:44 a.m. near 6200 Springhill Court, tools were stolen from Honda Pilot. At 7:43 a.m. near 5800 Cher-

rywood Lane, a front window broken, personal property stolen. At 4:13 p.m. near 7700 Greenbelt Road, a catalytic converter was stolen from Nissan NV200. On February 28 at 4:47 a.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a rear trunk window was broken, personal property was stolen from a Jeep. At 3:33 p.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway, temporary tags were stolen. At 4:00 p.m. near 5500 Cherrywood Lane, temporary tags were stolen. On March 1 at 10:40 a.m. near 8200 N. Channel Drive, a rear tag was stolen. On March 2 at 9:11 a.m. near 5500 Stream Bank Lane, a passenger-side window was broken and change was stolen. At 10:45 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a disabled placard was stolen. On March 3 at 7:02 a.m. near 7600 Mandan Road, disabled placard was stolen. On March 3 at 8:24 a.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a disabled placard was stolen. On March 3 at 2:01 p.m. near 8100 Lakecrest Drive, a disabled placard was stolen. On March 3 at 2:38 p.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, both N.Y. license plates were stolen from car.

## Vehicle Located

On February 28 at 7:30 a.m. near 6500 Springcrest Drive, a stolen trailer was found after it was parked illegally. The trailer was impounded after attempts to reach the owner were unsuccessful.

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## COUNCIL continued from page 1

councilmembers prevailed.

### Car Tag Readers

Police Chief Richard Bowers and Captain Tim White spoke about the acquisition of an updated and automated license-tag reader that first reads and then compares the tag in real time with a statewide list of stolen cars or cars suspected of playing a part in a crime. White said it would keep Greenbelt's technology in step with the county and other municipalities.

Byrd was concerned about the possible effect of false positives – where a tag was misidentified and the person driving the car subjected to being pulled over, possibly with dire consequences. White replied that with their current system, he knew of only one occasion (the database had not been updated to show a stolen car was recovered) where a person had been pulled over in error. Byrd replied that he wanted such events to be systematically recorded and not merely informally remembered.

### WMATA Partnership

In other news from the police, Bowers reported a partnership with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which has a shortage of officers. Two Greenbelt officers (funded by Metro) cover the Metro station during peak hours – this is an overtime role and doesn't affect policing levels otherwise. Greenbelt officers are on duty during morning and evening rush hours in the parking lot and approaches to the station, while the transit police monitor platforms and trains.

In response to questions, Bowers noted that crime in the parking lot is generally included in the police blotter but not that on the platform as it is not within Greenbelt's jurisdiction. He said that the secured nature of the parking lot makes it less vulnerable than is generally the case in the city and that the incidence of auto-related crimes was thus much lower. He noted that the arrangement with WMATA was to be reviewed in June.

### City Report

Interim City Manager Tim George reported that work on American Rescue Program Act projects was proceeding and that the program for microgrants for neighborhood organizations was in the planning stages. Staff are working on a stumbling block that recipients are required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to be registered with SAM.gov, which qualifies contractors and grantees to receive funding. To be registered, an organization must be incorporated and complete a complicated registration

process out of reach of small neighborhood associations.

George also reported that they are keen to increase the proportion of electric vehicles and to increase the number of charging stations. In response to questions by Roberts, George said the city is guided by affordability and practicality, depending on the class of vehicle. Now, he stated, only smaller vehicles like F-150 pickups are feasible; F-450 pickups and buses are not.

### Petitions and Requests

During the petitions and requests section of the meeting, resident Robert Goldberg-Strassler requested that the Greenbelt Cemetery be expanded to permit a kosher section of the cemetery for Jewish members of the community who wish to be interred there.

Also, during this portion of the program, Robert Marin spoke on the "bring your own bag" ordinance that will be coming before council. He requested an exemption for food service establishments where it may not be appropriate for either practical or sanitary reasons to allow the purchaser's own bags or to insist on charging for all the paper bags food is delivered in.

Ethan Sweep introduced himself in his role as community liaison for U.S. Representative Glenn Ivey, aiding council in such areas as grants or legislative concerns. He pointed out the grants newsletter is online on Ivey's website, and noted that there was also community project funding through the House appropriation process.

### Legislation

Council supported two pieces of legislation headed for the state legislature: a bill funding flood prevention, promoting environmental equity in inner Beltway communities prone to flooding, and a \$1M grant for police mental health and stress management. A bill requiring a smoking policy for public areas in multi-family buildings also was of interest to council, with GHI and several large condominiums in the city, but they elected to take no position on it at this time, though Davis remarked that the increasing use of marijuana was exacerbating the problem as the smoke is so pungent.

Council was also in support of an amendment to a bill providing recruitment and hiring bonuses for police statewide from which Greenbelt and other larger municipalities had been excluded. Because the bill is also supported by Maryland Municipal League, of which the city is a member, council itself took no position.

## County Holds Saturday Tutoring

The Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County in partnership with the county council announces its new weekend tutoring program, Saturday Enrichment Academy (SEA), to help improve grades and test scores of county youth. In this three-hour weekly program, learning coaches will use creative ways to meet the needs and styles of participants in grades one to three to promote academic acceleration. SEA is free for Prince George's County residents

ages 6 to 9 and will take place at nine locations through June 10 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"The purpose of our Saturday Enrichment Academy is to provide academic support to youth who are having challenges with English language arts and STEAM," states Anica O'Neil, assistant division chief at the department. "It is our goal to bridge the gap and provide our youth with resources in a comfortable, fun, engaging environment that will assist with mitigating their learning challenges."

Students will receive small-

group tutoring that creates a more comfortable learning environment and allows tutors to meet participants where they are. SEA will take place each Saturday at nearby Berwyn Heights Elementary and eight other county elementary schools: Columbia Park, Deerfield Run, Langley Park, Perrywood, Glassmanor, Fort Washington Forest, William Hall Academy and William Beanes.

Registration is now open at Parks Direct [bit.ly/2heVGQ8](http://bit.ly/2heVGQ8); search for 20232. To learn more, contact [anica.oneil@pgparks.com](mailto:anica.oneil@pgparks.com).



## BRIGGS continued from page 7

"chronic absences" (10 percent or more of school days) are referred to the Student Intervention Team (SIT) and students with "habitual truancy" (absent for 20 percent or more of school days) are referred to the School Support Team (SST) (PGCPS Procedure 5113, enacted September 2022).

Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed his concern about school absences that were observable in Greenbelt and shared his hope to work with Briggs to address the issue.

Davis also wanted to be assured that students living in Greenbelt could go to schools located in the city and pointed out that students not in the catchment areas for Eleanor Roosevelt High School were faking addresses so that they could attend the premium school. Briggs promised to check into and provide information on both these issues, stating that to his knowledge there was no change of boundary under consideration. As the News Review reported in the June 2, 2021, and October 26, 2022, issues, the current school boundary

initiative will be phased in for the 2023-24 school year and will affect some Greenbelt families, reassigning some students attending Greenbelt Elementary to Magnolia Elementary and removing Hollywood and College Park from the Greenbelt Middle School catchment area, among other changes.

### Construction

In response to Pope's question about the planned new Springhill Lake Elementary, Briggs replied that, as far as he knew, it was still on schedule for two years out. He would get back to her, he said, on anything now known about how students would be accommodated during the rebuilding phase.

He said he would also pursue the more general question of maintenance tickets left unfulfilled, noting that the tickets were prioritized and that delays to smaller requests were the result. He was not sure, but would check, he said, to what degree continuing materials supply shortages were a factor in maintenance issues not being addressed.



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Spotlight on Women

# Two Women Pioneers Inspire Today's Community Nurses

by Katherine Hopkins

I am a junior nursing student at the Catholic University of America's Conway School of Nursing, hailing from Dunmore, Penn., and currently working in community nursing in Greenbelt through the partnership between my school and the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program (GAIL). As we celebrate Women's History Month, I reflect on two women pioneers of community health who have inspired me and given much to the field of community health nursing.

What is community health, one may ask. To fully grasp the idea of what community health and nursing are, I look back at the lives of Florence Nightingale and Lillian Wald, two women who, beginning in the 19th century, created a profession that provides care, support and comfort to patients and their families in multiple settings.

Public health nursing is one of the oldest specialty nursing practices that offers a unique approach to traditional nursing. It is community-based and population-focused, which means it is set on a much larger scale than in a hospital setting. In this field, practitioners experience the complex challenge of working with diverse populations and have the opportunity to carry out the care that was developed in the early days of public health nursing. Thanks are due to Nightingale and Wald, who pioneered techniques and efforts that we use to form our own modern version of public health nursing.

**Katherine Hopkins****Nightingale**

Florence Nightingale was a nurse and is considered the founder of modern nursing. She helped advance healthcare by improving hygiene and living standards. She served as a nurse during the Crimean War (1853-1856), where she observed the poor conditions in military hospitals and saw wounded men living in filthy environments served by ill-equipped staff. Nightingale promoted better nursing care with an emphasis on clean air, clean water and efficient lighting in hopes of providing a better space to heal. These changes helped save lives then and continue to be implemented today, saving thousands more every year. Her contributions demonstrated that these nursing interventions prevented illness and improved the health of high-risk populations.

**Wald**

Lillian Wald was a leader



PHOTO BY KIM WALSH

in the field of public health nursing, providing nursing services to the needy. After working in a community setting and witnessing firsthand the poverty and hardship endured by immigrants in New York, she and a nurse friend, Mary Brewster, took it upon themselves to implement a new way of providing healthcare. In 1893, they founded the Henry Street Settlement, a center that provided healthcare to the poor in New York City. The Settlement provided care and supplies to anyone who needed them and helped form the ethical idea that remains a part of nursing today: to provide proper care to anyone no matter their ethnicity, cultural background or place in society. Wald's work to change the relationship between disease and poverty in a community healthcare setting helped move forward the idea of universal healthcare in modern medicine.

Understanding the struggles Nightingale and Wald went through to reform nursing treatment by placing the needs of the population first is still the backbone of nursing today. It is a field that is constantly changing in order to provide the best care for patients, their families and the community at large. This semester has taught me so much, and I am grateful to instill these practices into my time with the GAIL program. I hope that you will remember these two crucial women during this month and especially the next time you are receiving nursing care.



## NURSING continued from page 1

benefits and resources. The nursing students assist Service Coordinator Flora Li by meeting with residents to provide screenings, assistance in bathing, vital signs monitoring and health education. The service coordinator also assesses residents' eligibility for a wide variety of programs and services that are available to them within the city and the county, which helps the residents regain and/or maintain their independence.

The six junior student nurses, all young women in their early 20s hailing from Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts, are required to complete 90 clinical hours in community/public health nursing as part of the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing program. Through this clinical placement they are learning about health policies and programs, applying their health assessment skills, writing documentation and practicing therapeutic communication skills. These skills and experiences are vital and sometimes hard to gain in an acute care setting, where there is little time to build rapport and relationships with patients. In a community set-

ting, students actively engage and spend an hour with the residents and learn from other community health advocates about resources and support that older adults need in the community.

The student nurses have gained confidence and independence and they've enjoyed working with Green Ridge House residents each week. In particular, they've been able to practice their assessment skills and develop their knowledge about the social determinants of health, including the impact of policies and programs on health behaviors and outcomes. In mid-March, they will meet with Mayor Emmett Jordan to learn about the health priorities in Greenbelt, which is seeking to become an increasingly dementia-friendly community.

"This experience allows me to practice the skills that I learned in the lab and allows me to develop a relationship with the residents," says Hannah Buzgo from Massachusetts.

**Partnerships**

Sharon Johnson, GAIL community case manager, says "partnering with Schools of Nursing like The Catholic University of America allows the GAIL pro-

gram to truly provide wrap-around services to at-risk and frail older Greenbelt residents who would not be able to afford these in-home services otherwise."

Prior to the Community Nursing Program, qualifying residents were connected with local, county, state and federal programs to provide in-home support. The program has now grown to include a partnership with four schools of nursing and is provided at no cost to participants. Thanks to these continued partnerships, services continue to be offered during the spring and fall school semesters.

**GAIL**

The GAIL program was established in 2001 and provides information, assistance, case management, counseling and community services for seniors and adults with disabilities and their caregivers residing within the city limits of Greenbelt.

*Kim Walsh is the director of Undergraduate Academic Programs at The Catholic University of America. She lives in Greenbelt.*

Spotlight on Women

# Democratic Club Meeting Highlights Women's History

by Konrad Herling

The Roosevelt Democratic Club presents Maryland Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller as its guest speaker for Women's History Month on Sunday, March 19 at 3 p.m. in the Greenbriar Community Building at 7600 Hanover Parkway.

The lieutenant governor is the state's second woman to serve in that capacity (Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was the state's first woman to serve as lieutenant governor). Miller is the first South Asian woman elected in that role in the country and the first immigrant to hold a statewide office in Maryland. Miller, who has a B.S. degree in civil engineering, worked as a transportation engineer in the 1990s for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Subsequently, she ran successfully for the state's District 15 House of Delegates in 2010. Her background in transportation came into play during her first term (2011-2015) on the Legislature's Revenue, Transportation

and Education Subcommittee, and in her second term (2015-2019), she served as vice chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee.

Among key legislation she co-sponsored was the ban on fracking in Maryland. Additionally, she served on the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, appointed by former governor Martin O'Malley. Its mission is to enhance, protect and conserve the Potomac River Basin water and associated land resources.

Among possible topics the lieutenant governor will address at the meeting are her priorities, and what insights she will bring to the position stemming from her previous service experience and the perspectives that women bring to employment in general and to public service specifically.

Further information about the event can be found on the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club's webpage at [rooseveltclub.com](http://rooseveltclub.com).

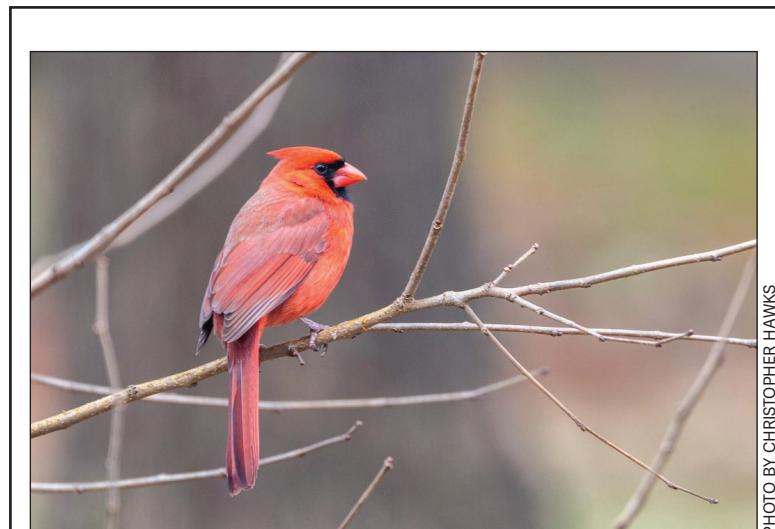


PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER HAWKS

## City Councilmembers Reappointed to NLC

Members of the Greenbelt City Council have again been named to advocacy committees of the National League of Cities (NLC) for the coming year.

Mayor Emmett Jordan will serve the second of a two-year term as a member of the League's board of directors. He will meet with other directors in March, June and November to provide strategic direction and guidance for the League's federal advocacy, governance and membership activities.

"As elected officials, our duty to our residents is to be in touch with everything associated with local government. Being an active member of the National League of Cities provides us with the information we need, the support we need and the voice we need to make the necessary changes for our residents," said Jordan.

Other councilmembers who have been reappointed to federal advocacy committees are: Councilmember Kristen Weaver - Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee; Councilmember Judith Davis - Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee; Councilmember Silke Pope - Public Safety and Crime Prevention and the

Small Cities Council Committee; and Councilmember Ric Gordon - National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Local Officials group.

The League, the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country, works to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.

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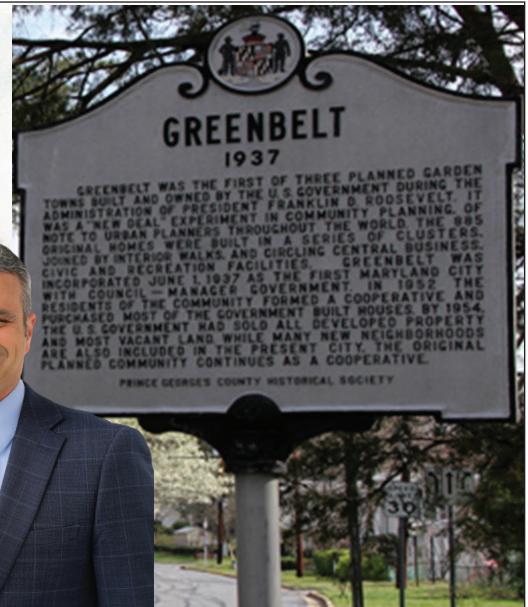


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# Sports

## ERHS Raiders Season Has Early End in Close Game

by Patrick Gleason

Unfortunately for the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders, the calendar on their 2023 basketball season never reached March; their early playoff exit on the final day of February means there will be a new 4A boys state champion for the first time since 2018. The Raiders claimed the 2019 and 2022 titles, while the 2020 and 2021 titles remained uncontested due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But this year the Raider magic that has become a March tradition fell just short.

After a strong second-half performance in their opening round victory over the C.H. Flowers Jaguars, the Raiders entered their subsequent road contest prepared to avenge two regular season losses to the Wise Pumas; however, the Pumas proved dangerous from deep, sprinting to a double-digit halftime lead behind a barrage of three pointers. In the second half, the lead ballooned to

15, with each Raider run matched by Puma marksmanship – that is until Roosevelt sophomore Giovanni Sanford commandeered Wise's impending conquest in the game's final minute and a half. With the Raiders still trailing by double digits, Sanford sunk a three from the top of the key. On the next possession, he stepped even further back and drained a shot from the wing. The Pumas, who were resolute from the free throw line all night finally faltered, leading to another Roosevelt possession, which could only rightly end with another three, as this time Sanford banked in a well-contested shot with less than four seconds left on the clock. In 90 seconds Sanford scored 11 of his 28 points and the Raiders now trailed by two in a game that felt all but over only minutes before.

In an attempt to extend the game, Roosevelt quickly fouled

and sent the Pumas to the free throw line. The first Puma shot extended their lead to 73-70, but the second free throw rimmed out. A quick Roosevelt rebound and pass to senior guard Jermaine Guldridge, Jr. led to a half-court heave that hit the back of the rim – a painfully close miss to prematurely end the Raiders' season just before the start of a month that seems to celebrate Roosevelt state championships as much as the advent of spring.

Sanford will head next season's effort to return to March glory for the Raiders who will graduate Guldridge and fellow seniors Bryson Whitley, Tobi Raji – a Navy commit – Niko Crumpler-Peoples, Dakari Enwstrom and Amari Wright. After all, an annual Raider rebirth seems to blossom each winter as routinely as the passage of spring.



Senior Amari Wright and the Raiders won't repeat as state champions, but the program holds four of the last ten state titles.



Senior Jermaine Guldridge, Jr. and the Roosevelt Raiders saw their comeback fall just short against the Wise Pumas.

- Photos by Kaniece Wright



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# Kyla and Her Team Go Out to Play: A Review of Greenbelt's Playgrounds

by Kyla Hanington



The other day, after three years of watching me sit inside the house eating chocolate Lindt balls and yelling at our Google Assistant™, Dan gently suggested that it might be time I go outside and play. Our 20-year-old nephew, Theo, was in town from Canada for a visit and so the three of us put on our shoes and did what any collection of 74-, 49- and 20-year-olds do when together on a lovely Saturday: we went on a playground crawl.

Greenbelt has a lot of playgrounds. Thirty-five of them, in fact, according to the city's website. We made it our mission to see as many of them as possible and devised a system for rating them. Any playground with a merry-go-round was automatically assigned a score of 100 out of five, and pity for Greenbelt that there are far fewer of those around than there used to be. The good news is that you can still find one at the corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes, near a meadow where, not infrequently, foxes, bunnies and deer roam. That means after you make yourself sick on the spinny ride you can lie in the field and wait for a rabbit to befriend you. (Note: this can take quite some time. Perhaps take a blanket to keep warm.) There is also one at the playground on Frankfort Drive, along with a climbing wall, swings, slides and both a duck and space shuttle spring rider.

There are not a lot of playgrounds in the Breezewood Court/Franklin Park area of Greenbelt compared to other parts of town. Franklin Park Apartments, as they are called now, were developed in the 1960s after Greenbelt Homes, Inc., sold the developer 147 acres of land. At the time, the apartment complex was the largest such development on the East Coast of the United States, according to the Library of Congress. That sale, nearly 60 years ago, left little "city" land that could be turned into playgrounds, since that land was no longer Greenbelt's to do with



Kyla is agile as a mountain goat.



Theo Belton enjoys the playground at Frankfort Drive.

PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

what it wanted, including building an abundance of playgrounds. When I mentioned this recently, someone said Greenbelt "should just take land back and turn it into a playground." I'm no lawyer, but I will say I wonder what land the speaker thought the city should take; what road or whose home should be torn up to make room for another playground?

That said, the playground on Breezewood Drive only escapes a 0 out of 5 rating on the grounds that any playground is better than no playground at all. But its two swings and one slide along with close proximity to traffic leave a lot to be desired, and we wondered how often it got used as well as how hard it might be to liven it up a little bit. The city

may not have an abundance of land within its control, but let's work together to make the best of what is there. If there's ever a push to improve the playground at Breezewood Drive, please sign me up.

We were big fans of the playground at the top of Ridge Road, and I have a soft spot for the playground at the corner of Plateau and Ridge, as that is where my kids played when they were little – back when it still had a merry-go-round. Now it has a lot of mushrooms. I'm not complaining, I'm a big fan of fungus. As part of this article I wanted Dan to drop to as many surfaces as possible to rate their general springiness and I suspect the ground at Plateau Place would be

a Dan-approved level of softness. I don't know for sure, however, as he didn't think throwing himself on the ground repeatedly to rate ground bounce-ability was a good idea, so here we are.

Astonishingly, not many of the playgrounds appeared to have been built with adults in mind, and of those almost none were prepared to accommodate a woman of size such as myself. I learned that I am more limber in theory than in practice, and there was at least one time when my attempt to go down a slide nearly required some firemen and a vat of olive oil to get me out of there, but alas, I managed to get unstuck all by myself.

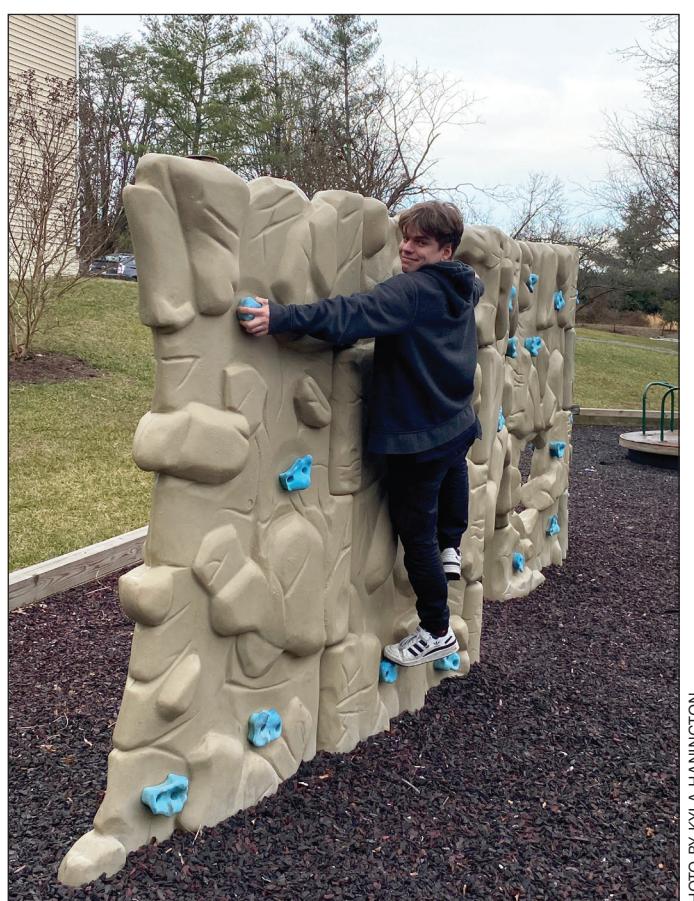
However, for those of you with young people (or at least

smaller people), the 35 city playgrounds in Greenbelt provide opportunity for fun and good times. We suggest flying off the nearest merry-go-round, sliding down a slide, climbing up some monkey bars and summiting a climbing wall to get you started.

Learn more about Greenbelt's playgrounds and where to find them at [greenbeltdmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/playgrounds](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/playgrounds).



Daniel Hamlin and Theo Belton enjoy the Lastner Lane merry-go-round.



Theo, the climbing wall and another merry-go-round

PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON